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# PROCEDURE

# *Department of Natural Resources*

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Date: September 2003

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**Cancels:** NA. New Procedure. Effective immediately.

**PR 14-006-010**      **REFORESTATION**

**APPLICATION**      This procedure applies to forest trust uplands.

**Discussion:** Prompt reforestation is required by forest practice rules as a key step in establishing and developing forests, and is the single-most vital step in sustainable forestry. This procedure summarizes regulatory requirements and Department direction for reforestation on forest trust uplands. Department education and training will sustain region capability to practice state-of-the art reforestation techniques and field craft in implementing this procedure.

**Action:** Forest stands subjected to final harvest shall be promptly reforested. Reforestation shall be by planting, natural regeneration, or a combination thereof. Reforestation efforts shall aim towards best attainment of forest management unit (FMU) objectives, as determined in silvicultural prescriptions. In order to preserve the native forest gene pool, seed source shall be consistent with the USDA-Forest Service/DNR publication "Washington Tree Seed Transfer Zones" (2002) for forest collection or, for seed orchard collection, comparable breeding zones.

**Steps:**

1. Reforestation planning shall begin as a part of the FMU silvicultural prescription process to guide timber sale preparation and balance current harvest revenue with projected future revenues (inter-generational equity).
  - a. Planting shall be the first consideration for reforestation. Natural regeneration is intended for situations where the presence of suitable advanced regeneration or the probability of viable seed-fall, germination, and survival indicate achievement of targeted stocking and species composition as specified in the silvicultural prescription.
  - b. As a minimum, every reforestation project shall receive an early survey (a stocking survey the first year after planting, or a natural regeneration survey within two years following harvest) and at least one survey to certify that desired species are present in prescribed distribution and numbers and are beyond lethal vegetative competition ("free to grow"). Additional surveys shall be added as needed to ensure timely re-planting or vegetation management.
  - c. Site preparation and management of competing vegetation shall be intrinsic to the reforestation process and shall employ preventive and/or active measures to best

attain silvicultural prescription objectives.

2. The reforestation process shall terminate with the FMU being *stocked and free to grow* as certified through timely surveys.

- a. “Stocked” shall mean satisfactory presence of viable crop trees i.e., sufficient numbers, distribution, and species of healthy trees of species suitable for accomplishing rotational objectives as set forth in the FMU silvicultural prescription, but no less than specified below.
- b. “Free to grow” shall mean that a sufficient number of suitable crop trees are beyond lethal suppression by competing vegetation of non-crop species.

The maximum periods within which to achieve stocking targets (not necessarily “free to grow”) after final harvest shall be:

	<u>Planted—Site III and Better</u>	<u>Natural Regen— Site III and Better</u>	<u>Planted—Site IV and Poorer</u>	<u>Natural Regen— Site IV and Poorer</u>
Westside	3 years	5 years	5 years	10 years
Eastside	<u>Planted</u> 5 years	<u>Natural Regen</u> 10 years		

Stocking targets shall be in accordance with the silvicultural prescription, but not less than:

**Westside:** 190 crop trees per acre of vigorous, undamaged, well-distributed seedlings of commercial tree species

**Eastside:** 150 crop trees per acre of vigorous, undamaged, well-distributed seedlings of commercial tree species

Remedial action, such as site preparation and replanting, shall correct departures from the above schedules at first biologically and budgetarily available opportunity.

An assessment appropriate for each situation shall certify when stocking and free-to-grow requirements are met. Prompt remedial action shall address departure from stocking and silvicultural prescription requirements. Reforestation prescription, actual treatments, and certifications shall be recorded for each FMU in the Department’s official planning and tracking database.

**APPROVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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